



Children's Court Improvement Commission
Collaborating to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, March 1, 2018
11:00 am - 2:00 p.m.
State Bar of New Mexico
Masthead St., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Attendees: Judge Jennifer DeLaney, Ezra Spitzer, Shelly Bucher, Bryce Pittenger, Wayne Lindstrom, Alison Pauk, Francine Anaya, Chuck Neelley, Beth Gillia, Sarah Blackwell, Kris Meurer, Jeremy Howard, Ted Lovato, Grace Spulak, Bette Fleishman, Jennifer Saavedra, Elizabeth Hamilton, Justice Barbara J. Vigil (on the phone)

Other Attendees: Sarah Jacobs, Nick Costales, Susan Weiss, Janet Garcia, Hilari Lipton, Michael Hely, Monica Rodriguez, Meyghan McCrea, Christi Fields, Caitlin DiFiore, Dominica Montano, Thom Allena, Georgia Berrenberg, Cynthia Chavers, Judge Marie Ward, Beth Williams

1. **Introductions and Welcome** done by the Co-Chairs, meeting was underway at 11:10 a.m. October 26, 2017 meeting minutes were approved by the Commission and all agreed to keep the April 26th meeting with the venue yet to be determined.
2. **CYFD/HSD Presentation on Geomapping of Services with Bryce Pittenger, LPCC, Director of Behavioral Health Services for CYFD, assisted by Wayne Lindstrom, Director of Behavioral Health Services for HSD.**

The presentation began with an overview of the operating principles and the latest updates from the CYFD Behavioral Health Division. Bryce Pittenger informed the Committee that CYFD's Mental Health First Aid Grant is about to end. The Commission members were also invited to join the CYFD Behavioral Health Steering Committee which is presently forming. CYFD is attempting to get a Family Peer Supports group going using federal grant funds. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA, is assisting the effort to increase the capacity to provide 'high-fidelity wraparound' within CYFD and their targeted community of dual involved youth. In addition to the geo-mapping of services, CYFD will also be collaborating with the New Mexico Human Services Behavioral Health Division to work on the most serious mental health cases involving families. CYFD and HSD plan to blend and overlap some of their work, with both Divisions taking a 'Health in All Policies' approach. Wayne Lindstrom will assist Bryce Pittenger with today's presentation.

The approach to the geo-mapping feature is solution based, using geo-spatial analysis of the community needs assessments at the local level. Keiser Permanente did a study on Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs. Those with four or more ACEs are ten times more likely to need services and have mental health issues. The collaborative aims to identify these people and match them with their local services. The website can also be used by judges, attorneys and therapists as a resource and for collecting and distributing data. Extended family members would be able to use the site to find additional care options. The Geo-mapping site is set up in layers of available services. Currently there is no public access for the site but Bryce will inform the group when it becomes available.

It is important to recognize that the site will be limited as New Mexico doesn't have enough providers in any discipline. There are a few examples of non-traditional solutions currently in place or forming. One of them, UNM's Project Echo, which helps provide specialty training to primary care providers, is a step in the right direction, but doesn't begin to cover the needs of the population. Also, because the structure is market driven, providers have limited hours to see a limited amount of clients. There is also little competition so practitioners are not inclined to go the extra mile to provide specialty services. Two years ago, the state created a new law which would allow for licensed crisis stabilization units or Crisis Triage Centers. These Centers would provide a safe and stable place for people suffering from

mental health issues to go for services. Home based services and Mobile Crisis Units would also be helpful in getting directly to the people who need help. Currently, Bernalillo County has a program where clinicians ride along with law enforcement on calls that may involve crisis. Santa Fe County is also collaborating with law enforcement; in lieu of incarceration, non-violent offending youth can be housed at alternative home sites and are given services at those sites.

The implementation of the geo-mapping features of the site will provide an easier overview of what services are available, where there are critical gaps, and possibly how the various agencies can pool their resources in a certain area to assist in getting the people in a specific region covered. In order for there to be a true shift in the system, there would have to be increased collaboration with all agencies involved. Those agencies would in turn have to cultivate a culture of open communication, accountability, and support.

3. Working Lunch Provided by Casey Family Programs

4. Health & Human Services Program Overview/Grant Opportunity

Beth Williams, 13th District Ct. – Deputy Court Executive Officer

Dominica Montano, 13th District Court, LMSW, Family Support Services Director

Beth Williams began with an overview of their Family Support Services program in Sandoval County. The main goal of the program is to have enough providers to have an impact on families currently going through the Child Welfare and Judicial systems. District Judge John Davis, played a key role in starting up the program and together with the staff of the 13th Judicial District, formulated operations. Data, time to permanency and outcomes were analyzed from 2006 to 2017. Now that the program has been underway, the 13th Judicial District has seen a sharp decrease in delays to permanency and better outcomes for the families.

One big difference within the program is that the social worker and attorney are equal partners in the case. The program gets referrals from attorneys or CYFD and they both build a case that aims to help clients adhere to the program. The social workers play a key role in helping parents to understand the complexities of the legal case and in turn, help the attorneys to interact and communicate on the client's level. Staff are able to spend more time with the parents and act as a bridge between the parties. They can also work directly with CYFD to tweak the plan, if needed, to better fit a families' specific needs, which in turn helps the whole process to run smoother. Further, staff can go the extra mile by following up with clients by texting reminders to go to treatment and classes. They take clinical case measures and help parents to understand why they were taken into custody in the first place. Program staff also provide clients with guidance on how to channel strong emotions in a productive way in order to move the case forward and help them reunify. Through the building of rapport and trust with the family, clients are typically more open and forthcoming about circumstances that would sometimes never come to light. Helping parents understand why their children are not safe to go home and providing personalized guidance with their treatment plan has also had a positive impact. We find providers for parents and bring them in to the process/open communication with them. Example, tailor cases to be specific, helping them to find providers that will work around the parents needs and schedules.

Currently, the program is trying to push for 'visit hosting', in which, a peer family hosts the supervised visitation at their house and can provide feedback to the family and documentation back to the department after the visit. CYFD has created an interview process and does a background check before they begin hosting. Sandoval County CYFD has been very proactive and open to the process.

Some initial challenges to the program have been getting the attorneys on board and training them to make referrals. The attorneys were not always receptive and argued that the program would create more work for them. It took a lot of coaxing, but as the program and cases have progressed the attorneys involved have become advocates for the program and are encouraging their peers to be open to the idea. With more available staff to work in the program to support both the families and attorneys would also help to convince more participation.

The current grant opportunity is to expand out to Bernalillo County and form a program that will see similar, if not more, success as in Sandoval County. The ultimate and future goals would be to spread this model statewide. This can also have a big impact nationwide as other states look to New Mexico's progress.

5. Committee Updates:

Juvenile Justice Committee – Updated on the CYPM-Georgetown presentation from the last meeting and made a motion to the Commission to vote on whether the Juvenile Justice Committee will proceed to look for funding for the youth crossover model. The motion passed unanimously. The group is also looking at making referrals to the Rules Committees regarding attorneys getting timely notice of JQ cases. Hilary Lipton of Casey Family Programs (and formerly of AOC) proposed using an app which would send reminders to youth and parents and have folders with schedules and calendars and possibly the Parent Orientation Packet. Currently Hawaii and Indiana are using apps right now within their Juvenile Justice systems. Hilary offered to show Alison Paulk an example after the meeting.

Education Committee – currently working on partial credit recovery with Judge Delaney in the 6th Judicial District and will focus on solutions to any barriers in the implementation. Once the CYFD procedures are finalized FosterEd will be doing a webinar. The members are currently researching what other states are doing and how it can work in NM. The Committee wasn't able to do a memorial this last session because too little data was available to go forward but the group hopes to try to get one going for the 60 day session next year. Grace asked the Commission to call the Governor's office in support of Senate Bill 231, on Foster Youth, as it is currently pending on her desk.

Protective Services Committee – The committee has had two local meetings since last October's meeting. The Committee decided to take a break on the Peacemaking initiative for now. Mitch Sickon moved back to Michigan so there is currently a space to fill on the roster.

Behavioral Health Committee – The committee hasn't met and will get something going by next meeting and will forward a summary to the Commission.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 26th, venue TBD